

## NOT SMARTEST DOG, BUT SMARTEST TURTLES

Rex Bassler, a youngster of 6, living at Darien, Wis., has probably the strangest driving team in the world—a team of eight snapping turtles, weighing about thirty pounds each and from 50 to 75 years old. Rex has tamed them, and they draw him in his express wagon like ponies driven by other children, although they are not likely to shatter any speed records.

The youngster learned that turtles could be tamed while watching his father, Max Bassler, catching turtles



Rex Bassler Driving His Team of Snapping Turtles.

for the markets. He found that they were appreciative of kindly treatment, bits of food, and soon was able to make the turtles follow him about. Persuading his father to give him some of the largest, he finally grouped them for a driving team, and they seem to enjoy the sport as much as he likes to ride behind them.

The turtles in Rex's team are now so old that their backs are all covered with moss. The two largest are both males and are savage to all

but Rex. He can handle them as he likes and can even stand on their backs and let them walk off with him. The team is kept in line by means of a wire harness. Holes were drilled in the backs of the leaders' shells and in the front part of those following and all then wired together.

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A New Yorker pays \$15,000 a year for his flat. And yet New Yorkers laugh at strangers who buy gold bricks!—Cleveland Plain Dealer